

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. All of the pending claims were rejected based on Karaoguz in view of Lee, and in the case of claim 4 that combination further in view of Kashitani. Claims 1 and 6 are currently amended. Reconsideration is requested.

The presently claimed invention distinguishes the cited references because the access point selects only a subset of the collected bid messages, and consequently associates with only a subset of stations bidding to become associated with the access point in a given cycle. One advantage of this technique is mitigation of hunting-roaming and forced overload of access points. The cited references teach the well known technique according to which an access point accepts every station which attempts to become associated that access point. In this case the messages sent by the station are “probes”¹ and “reassociation requests”², which differ from bids because they cannot be denied by the receiving access point. Claim 1 therefore distinguishes the cited references by reciting “selecting only a subset of the bid messages based at least in-part on the at least one parameter; and causing each station which submitted a selected bid message to become associated with the access point.” (emphasis added). Claim 6 recites similar language. Claims 2-5 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention, and which are allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims.

¹ See Lee at para 0016

² Id. and para 0017

For the reasons discussed above, and in view of the claim amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below to discuss any matters which might expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

May 15, 2006
Date

/Holmes W. Anderson/
Holmes Anderson, Reg. No. 37,272
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
McGuinness & Manaras LLP
125 Nagog Park
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-6664

Docket No. 160-053
Dd: 5/27/2006